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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Liberia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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The Republic of Liberia welcomes, once again, the recommendations made by Member States and would like to reaffirm its sustained commitment to the protection and promotion of the human rights. Liberia has carefully considered the recommendations in consultation with relevant stakeholders and respectfully submits the following responses to the Human Rights Council.

Recommendations	*Liberian positions*	*Explanatory notes*
1.	Noted	Liberia is already a party to many of the core international human rights instruments. Liberia favorably considers the signature and ratification of other human rights instruments. However, Liberia chooses to note this recommendation due to its broad nature.
2.	Noted	See No. 1.
3.	Noted	See No. 1.
4.	Noted	See No. 1.
5.	Accepted	Liberia acceded to CEDAW in 1984 and is therefore already a State Party. Liberia has signed the ICRMW and intends to ratify the ICRMW in due course.
6.	Noted	Liberia has not yet signed the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR but views signature favorably.
7.	Accepted	Liberia has already ratified OP-CAT and looks forward to working with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture to implement the OP-CAT.
8.	Accepted	Liberia has signed the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and intends to ratify it in due course.
9.	Accepted	Liberia warmly welcomes all the recommendations relating to the protection of the rights of the child; hence, Liberia intends to ratify the Optional Protocols on the rights of the child during the implementation period of the National Human rights Action Plan as evident in the fact that Liberia has already taken legislative measures to domesticate the protocol. Article 3, section 22 of the 2011 Children's Law enshrines the right of children to be protected from violence during armed conflict, and prohibits the recruitment of child soldiers.
10.	Noted	See No. 9.
11.	Accepted	See No. 9.
12.	Noted	See No. 9.
13.	Accepted	See No. 9.
14.	Accepted	See No. 9.
15.	Accepted	See No. 9.
16.	Accepted	See No. 9.
17.	Accepted	Liberia remains committed to protecting all with in its border from politically motivated disappearances.

18.	Accepted	See No. 17.
19.	Accepted	See Nos. 5 and 17.
20.	Accepted	See No. 5.
21.	Accepted	See No. 5.
22.	Noted	Liberia has signed the Optional Protocol to the CRPD and favorably considers ratification. Nonetheless, Liberia must move cautiously in light of the financial and social implications of ratifying human rights instruments.
23.	Noted	The Government of Liberia intends to maintain the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty until such time as the peace and security is fully consolidated.
24.	Noted	See No. 23.
25.	Noted	See No. 23.
26.	Noted	See No. 23.
27.	Noted	See No. 23.
28.	Noted	See No. 23.
29.	Noted	
30.	Noted	
31.	Noted	
32.	Noted	
33.	Noted	
34.	Noted	
35.	Noted	
36.	Noted	
37.	Noted	
38.	Noted	
39.	Noted	
40.	Accepted	
41.	Noted	
42.	Noted	
43.	Accepted	
44.	Accepted	
45.	Accepted	The principle of equality is already included in the Constitution under article 11(b), which provides that "all persons, irrespective of ethnic background, race, sex, creed, place of origin, or political opinion, are entitled to the

		fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual..." Nonetheless, a number of provisions that further clarify the equal rights of men and women are included in the recommendations made by the Constitution Review Committee. As noted, these provide for equal access to economic and social opportunities and greater participation in governance and national affairs.
46.	Accepted	See No. 45.
47.	Accepted	
48.	Accepted	See No. 45.
49.	Accepted	
50.	Accepted	
51.	Accepted	
52.	Accepted	
53.	Accepted	Liberia believes that the Children's Law domesticates the vast majority of the provisions of the CRC, but acknowledges the need to undertake further review to ensure that this and other laws are in conformity with the CRC.
54.	Accepted	Liberia wishes to re-engage with the SPT to create a national preventative mechanism (NPM). A provision to create an NPM has been included in a proposed anti-torture bill currently under consideration by the Legislature.
55.	Noted	There are no laws in Liberia that expressly discriminate against human rights defenders.
56.	Noted	Liberia does not have any laws that expressly restrict these activities. The Press Union of Liberia, in collaboration with the Independent Information Commission, has drafted an act to decriminalize aspects of defamation and libel, which is now under consideration by the Legislature.
57.	Accepted	A draft Domestic Violence Act was submitted to the Legislature in August following the submission of the national report in 2015.
58.	Accepted	Liberia has already done so through article 4 of the Children's Law.
59.	Accepted	This right is already protected under article 28 of the 1986 Constitution, thereby nullifying provisions of the Alien Nationality Law promulgated under the 1847 Constitution.
60.	Accepted	The draft Domestic Violence Act contains a provision explicitly prohibiting FGM on children under the age of 18 and on adults 18 and over who do not consent to the practice. If adopted, this will criminalize FGM performed on children in the context of domestic relationships.

61.	Accepted	See No. 60. The Supreme Court has already ruled that the practice of trial by ordeal is illegal. The draft Domestic Violence Act also prohibits trial by ordeal, "sassywood," and "other cultural torture."
62.	Accepted	See No. 60. Liberia welcomes those aspects of the recommendation that provide for increasing awareness on the harmful consequences of FGM., and, as noted in its National Report, has already taken measures to do so.
63.	Accepted	As noted, the Act is before the Legislature.
64.	Accepted	Liberia accepts all provisions of this recommendation.
65.	Accepted	See No. 45.
66.	Accepted	See No. 59.
67.	Accepted	See No. 60
68.	Accepted	This is a crucial component of Liberia's security transition plan. SGBV Units of the Ministry of Justice will be established at all five regional justice and security hubs, and officers of the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) of the Liberia National Police (LNP) will be assigned at all five hubs.
69.	Accepted	Efforts to improve access to justice for victims of SGBV and the investigative capacity of the LNP are ongoing.
70.	Accepted	See No. 69.
71.	Accepted	The Government jointly with the UN has developed comprehensive prevention strategy which is currently being re-launched.
72.	Accepted	
73.	Accepted	See No. 53.
74.	Accepted	The Children's Law addresses child labour and exploitation, as does the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. In 2014, Liberia also launched a national policy to fight human trafficking. Liberia is committed to abolishing the worst forms of child labour.
75.	Noted	It is not the policy of the State to discriminate based on LBGT status. However, the Government must proceed with caution due to the religious and cultural climate of Liberia in this regard. Robust awareness and sensitization on this matter, which is ongoing, will must inform the Government on the proper course of action before any such action is taken.
76.	Noted	See No. 75.
77.	Noted	See No. 75.
78.	Noted	See No. 75.

79.	Noted	See No. 75.
80.	Noted	See No. 75.
81.	Noted	See No. 75.
82.	Noted	See No. 75.
83.	Accepted	
84.	Accepted	Needs capacity and technical support.
85.	Accepted	See No. 84.
86.	Accepted	See No. 84.
87.	Accepted	See No. 84.
88.	Accepted	See No. 84.
89.	Accepted	See No. 84.
90.	Accepted	See No. 84.
91.	Accepted	See No. 84.
92.	Accepted	
93.	Accepted	
94.	Accepted	
95.	Accepted	The Constitution Review Committee has advanced a recommendation to amend the Constitution to enhance protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. Liberia also has included the protection of vulnerable persons in strategies such as the NHRAP and the AFT.
96.	Accepted	See No. 72.
97.	Accepted	See Nos. 72 and 95.
98.	Accepted	The draft Domestic Violence Act is before the Legislature.
99.	Accepted	Liberia welcomes this recommendation. See also No. 60.
100.	Accepted	See Note 99
101.	Accepted	See No.99.
102.	Accepted	
103.	Accepted	Liberia has already begun developing human rights indicators to track implementation of the NHRAP.
104.	Accepted	
105.	Accepted	A national strategy on treaty body reporting has been developed, and a draft Common Core Document finalized.
106.	Accepted	

107.	Accepted	See No. 106.
108.	Accepted	See No. 106.
109.	Accepted	A Standing Invitation to the Special Procedures has been issued.
110.	Accepted	See No. 109.
111.	Accepted	See No. 109.
112.	Accepted	See No. 109.
113.	Accepted	See No. 109.
114.	Accepted	See No. 109.
115.	Accepted	
116.	Accepted	
117.	Accepted	
118.	Accepted	See No. 45.
119.	Accepted	See No. 45.
120.	Accepted	
121.	Accepted	See No. 75.
122.	Noted	See No. 75.
123.	Accepted	See No. 75.
124.	Accepted	
125.	Accepted	
126.	Accepted	See No. 68.
127.	Accepted	
128.	Accepted	See note 60.
129.	Accepted	
130.	Accepted	See note 60
131.	Accepted	See No. 60.
132.	Accepted	See No. 60.
133.	Accepted	See No. 60.
134.	Accepted	See Nos. 68 and 69.
135.	Accepted	See Nos. 68 and 69.
136.	Accepted	
137.	Accepted	

138.	Accepted	
139.	Accepted	
140.	Accepted	
141.	Accepted	See Nos. 60.
142.	Accepted	See No. 60.
143.	Accepted	See No. 149.
144.	Accepted	
145.	Accepted	
146.	Accepted	See Nos. 60.
147.	Accepted	See No. 62
148.	Accepted	See No. 74.
149.	Noted	
150.	Accepted	
151.	Accepted	
152.	Accepted	
153.	Accepted	Following the submission of the National Report, the Minister of Justice established an anti-corruption litigation unit within the Ministry of Justice.
154.	Accepted	
155.	Accepted	
156.	Accepted	The Government of Liberia will involve the expertise of the SPT and other partners to further address this recommendation.
157.	Accepted	The Juvenile Justice Diversion Programme is addressing this recommendation.
158.	Accepted	
159.	Accepted	
160.	Accepted	
161.	Accepted	In addition to operational responsibility, the government is gradually assuming financial responsibility for the regional justice and security hubs.
162.	Accepted	See No. 157. Liberian laws do not provide for preventive detention.
163.	Accepted	
164.	Accepted	Liberia accepts this recommendation, subject to the ruling of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of some of the recommendations, and also subject to available resources and the political implications of implementation.
165.	Accepted	

166.	Accepted	
167.	Accepted	
168.	Accepted	Liberia has made improvement in this area a key pillar of its Agenda for Transformation and is striving to improve the standard of living. The Government's focus on health and education under the post Ebola Recovery Plan will also help to improve the standard of living.
169.	Accepted	
170.	Accepted	See No.168.
171.	Accepted	
172.	Accepted	
173.	Accepted	
174.	Accepted	
175.	Accepted	This is provided for in the National Plan for Health and Social Welfare and in the Agenda for Transformation. Liberia has also been working with international partners to improv health care services and delivery following the Ebola outbreak as a matter of high priority.
176.	Accepted	See No. 175.
177.	Accepted	See No. 175.
178.	Accepted	The Government has developed a post-Ebola recovery plan in close collaboration with Guinea and Sierra Leone, aimed at addressing the impact of Ebola on the economy and to lessen the social effects thereof.
179.	Accepted	
180.	Accepted	
181.	Accepted	See Nos. 175, 181. The New Education Reform Law of 2011 provides for compulsory education for boys and girls. Liberia has also formulated a new educational strategy to strengthen the school system, which provides for the construction of schools around the country, a revamped curriculum, and measures to strengthen the quality and integrity of the educational experience. It also provides for recreational facilities as part of these more comprehensive facilities.
182.	Accepted	The Constitution Review Committee has accepted a recommendation to enhance the protection of persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to their right to education.
183.	Accepted	
184.	Accepted	
185.	Accepted	This recommendation has been implemented since Liberia was declared Ebola free by the WHO.

186	Accepted	The Government continues to support the National Commission on Disabilities. Additionally, the Constitution Review Committee has accepted a recommendation to enhance protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly with regard to access to education and employment opportunities.